

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter this Amendment, to reconsider all objections and rejections, and to pass the application on to an allowance.

As presently understood, Applicants submit that claims 1-8 and 11-13 and 15 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims. It is understood from the Office Action of August 3, 2004 that claims 11-13 and 15 were subject to an objection whereas claims 1-8, 11-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (¶1), and further that claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected over prior art to Haley et al. The Examiner also, it appears, only objected to claim 2 as depending from a rejected base claim.

Amended claim 11 corrects of the words "retardant" and "polypropylene". The Examiner's suggestion in the Office Action, paragraph 4, is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1 and 11 recite that the fiber strength is 4.0 cN/dtex or more (from claim 2), and that the fiber is capable of suppressing the odor that is characteristic of NOR type hindered amine-based stabilizer. The language in amended claims 1 and 11 finds basis in the specification at page 16, lines 16-19. Accordingly, please reconsider and withdraw the enablement rejection.

Claims 1 and 3-8 define novel and unobvious inventions over the applied Haley et al. reference. The Haley et al. reference does not disclose nor does it suggest features recited in the claims, including a fiber strength of 4.0 cN/dtex or more, nor does the reference describe or suggest a fiber capable of suppressing an odor that is characteristic of a NOR type hindered amine-based stabilizer.¹

¹ The Office Action states "The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the recited flame retarding polypropylene fiber having a core-sheath structure, and further including a fiber strength [of] 4.0 cN/dtex or more." Office Action, page 5.

Appl. No. 09/827,346
Amdt. dated November 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2004

If the Examiner has any questions, please telephone the undersigned.

Applicants accordingly respectively suggest that their claims are patentable over the applied prior art and are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By: 
Kendrew H. Colton
Registration No. 30,368

Customer No.: 42798
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
1801 K Street, NW
Suite 401L
Washington, DC 20006-1201
Telephone: (202) 419-7000
Facsimile: (202) 419 -7007